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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hiroyuki INOUE et al.

Serial No. 09/384,283

Filed August 27, 1999

BATTERY



Docket No.00290/6762FUSK

Group Art Unit 1745

Examiner J. CREPEAU

**RECEIVED**  
APR 25 2001  
TC 1700

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 21, 2000, a petition for a one month extension of time up to and including April 21, 2001, being filed concurrently herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

As shown in Fig. 2, there is no need to provide a center hole in the electrode assembly 21 of a battery in which an energy beam, such as a laser beam, is applied from outside the case to weld the lead plate to the bottom plate. Consequently, this type of battery has the characteristic that the actual electrode assembly volume and battery discharge capacity can be increased. However, in this type of battery in which the lead plate is welded from outside the external case,